



May 2, 2008

This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

Grant Programs

ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, and TEACH Grant

COD News

UPDATED!

TEACH Grant Operational Implementation Guidance – Implementation of SAR Comment Code 282 [02/12/08 (Updated 05/02/08)]

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, authorized the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program for implementation beginning with the 2008-2009 Award Year. The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. A TEACH Grant recipient who does not complete the required teaching within a specified timeframe, or fails to meet certain other requirements of the TEACH Grant Program, will be required to repay the TEACH Grant as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Note: For policy information on all of the provisions of the CCRAA, including the TEACH Grant Program, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-01 on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#). For information on Federal Student Aid's Regulatory and Legislative Update – Spring 2008 training workshops, which will include a CCRAA module, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter ANN-08-02 on the IFAP Web site](#).

Implementation of SAR Comment Code 282

On May 5, 2008, Federal Student Aid will implement new Student Aid Report (SAR) comment code 282, indicating that the applicant has not been given the opportunity to answer the TEACH Grant question added for 2008-2009 to [FAFSA on the Web](#). This includes applicants who file a paper Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as those students for whom the application is generated by a school in [FAA Access to CPS Online](#) or through the Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) process. In these cases going forward, the resulting SAR and Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) will include comment code 282.

Also on May 5, 2008, Federal Student Aid will begin inserting a TEACH Grant Fact Sheet with paper SARs generated as a result of applications or corrections filed using a paper FAFSA, the [FAA Access to CPS Online Web site](#), or through the EDE process. Federal Student Aid will also insert the TEACH Grant Fact Sheet with paper SAR Acknowledgements generated as a result of submitting applications or corrections through the [FAA Access to CPS Online Web site](#) or the EDE process.



For complete information, refer to [the May 1, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site](#).

Reminders

Operational Implementation Overview – Federal Student Aid provided a high-level overview of how it will implement functionality for processing TEACH Grant awards in [an April 9, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site](#). Over the next several months, Federal Student Aid will supplement this high-level overview through updates to technical references and guides as well as numerous operational communications posted on the [IFAP Web site](#). For complete information, refer to [the April 9th Electronic Announcement](#).

COD Technical Reference Updates – Federal Student Aid has posted updated sections of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) that reflect TEACH Grant implementation information. The next updates are scheduled for May 2008.

CCRAA School Testing – Federal Student Aid plans to implement COD System functionality that will support the processing of TEACH Grant Program awards for the 2008-2009 and subsequent award years during the period June 27-28, 2008. Implementation of TEACH Grant processing requires changes to the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema. For this reason, it is important to Federal Student Aid to offer and conduct testing for participants before they send data to the “live” production environment using [COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a](#). The new testing opportunity—COD CCRAA School Testing for the 2008-2009 Award Year—will impact the previously published schedule for COD School Testing for the 2008-2009 Award Year. For complete information about both school testing opportunities, refer to [the April 24, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site](#). This information is also covered in the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#).

2008 Federal Student Aid Conferences (04/28/08)

The 2008 Federal Student Aid Conferences will be held October 28, 2008 through October 31, 2008 in Dallas, TX, and December 2, 2008 through December 5, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. These events were formerly known as the Electronic Access Conferences (EACs).

The fall Federal Student Aid Conferences are premiere training and networking opportunities for financial aid professionals. The conference program and session content at each event are essentially the same, and registration for both conferences is now open.

For further information regarding the upcoming 2008 Federal Student Aid Conferences, refer to [Federal Student Aid's Conferences Web site](#).

Changes To 2008-2009 COD School Testing And Schedule For 2008-2009 COD CCRAA School Testing (04/25/08)

As schools, third party servicers, and software providers are aware, during the period June 27-28, 2008, Federal Student Aid plans to implement COD System functionality that will support the processing of Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program awards for the 2008-2009 and subsequent award years. Implementation of TEACH Grant processing requires changes to the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema. For this reason, it is important to Federal Student



Aid to offer and conduct testing for participants before they send data to the “live” production environment using COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a.

The new testing opportunity—COD CCRAA School Testing for the 2008-2009 Award Year—will impact the previously published schedule for COD School Testing for the 2008-2009 Award Year. In [an April 24, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), Federal Student Aid provided the following information:

- Changes to the 2008-2009 COD School Testing schedule that are necessary to accommodate the plan and schedule for 2008-2009 COD CCRAA School Testing
- The plan, schedule, and process for 2008-2009 COD CCRAA School Testing

This information is also covered in the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#).

For complete information about both school testing opportunities, refer to [the April 24th Electronic Announcement](#). If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center by phone and ask for COD School Testing Support. You may also e-mail CODsupport@acs-inc.com with “COD School Testing Support” in the subject line.

2007-2008 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (04/23/08)

On April 22, 2008, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX08OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC08OP) to schools that have one or more Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) student records still reported with a verification status code of “W”. The message is a warning that disbursements to all students with a verification status code of “W” will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on May 22, 2008.

Note Regarding Verification Deadline:

Some of the student records included in the Reconciliation Report may be for students who are still within the allowable timeframe for submitting verification documentation/completing the verification process as will be specified in a forthcoming “Notice of Deadline Dates for Receipt of Applications, Reports, and Other Records for the 2007-2008 Award Year.” This notice will be published in the [Federal Register](#) and subsequently posted on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Following the May 22, 2008 reduction, if a school needs additional time to complete verification for an individual student in accordance with the allowable timeframe in the [Federal Register](#) notice, the school may resubmit a disbursement record with a value greater than zero (\$0.00) until September 30, 2008. After September 30, 2008, the COD System will no longer accept “W” as a valid verification status code for 2007-2008 Pell Grant awards.

For complete information, refer to [the April 23, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site](#). If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.



Current Issues

Pell Grant YTD Disbursement Amount Not Returned In Limited Case (04/30/08)

Federal Student Aid has discovered an issue with returning Year-to-Date (YTD) Disbursement Amount information in the <YTDDisbursementAmount> tag of the Common Record Response for certain Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) awards. The <YTDDisbursementAmount> tag is located in the Response Section of the Award Block and should include a value that is equal to the sum of all actual disbursements (Disbursement Release Indicator or DRI equals "True") for the specific award when there are actual disbursements.

Since March 15, 2008, in the limited case of an adjustment to a Pell Grant award that results in the sum of all actual disbursements for that award equaling zero (\$0.00), the COD System is not returning the <YTDDisbursementAmount> tag. While limited to this specific case, the issue does affect Pell Grant awards for all award years.

Federal Student Aid has determined the cause of this issue and plans to implement a code fix in May 2008. In the meantime, a school that needs to verify the YTD disbursement amount for a Pell Grant award can request a Pell Grant Reconciliation Report via the [COD Web site](#) or by submitting the batch data request for the appropriate program/award year message class via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG).

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience caused by this issue. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Weekly Reminders



Computer-Based Training Program for COD System Web Site, COD Reports, and Electronic MPN Web site (05/02/08)

Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind schools of the availability of an updated Computer-Based Training (CBT) for the [COD System Web site](#). The updated COD CBT includes enhancements that have been made to the COD System from March 2004 through April 14, 2007. Additionally, a new Direct Loan Reports CBT, a new Grant Reports CBT, and new simulations of the [Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) Web site](#) have been developed and are available for download.

The electronic files for the CBTs and simulations, as well as instructions for downloading and using these files, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the "Tools for Schools" section, click on [COD Computer-Based Training](#).

The CBTs and simulations are as follows:

COD System Web Site CBT

The COD System Web site CBT simulates the COD System and functionality available to a school administrator. In the updated COD System Web site CBT, there are eight lessons with text and an open format to guide a user through each area of the COD System Web site



simulation. The user can explore basic navigation and functions of the COD Web site and practice locating and creating information in a safe environment with tips for assistance.

Grant Reports CBT

The Grant Reports CBT offers three lessons that explain the COD reports a school can use to assist with the reconciliation process for Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) awards.

Direct Loan Reports CBT

The Direct Loan Reports CBT offers three lessons that explain the COD reports a school can use to assist with the reconciliation process for William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards.

EMPN Online Simulations

The EMPN Online Simulations serve as a guide for understanding the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site. The four simulations are as follows:

- EMPN online Grad PLUS Note
- EMPN online Parent PLUS
- EMPN online School Administrator
- EMPN online Subsidized-Unsubsidized

If you have any questions or comments about the CBTs and simulations, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you e-mail your question or comment to CODSupport@acs-inc.com, please include “CBT Question/Comment” in the subject line.



ACG and National SMART Grant Resources (05/02/08)

As a reminder, the Department of Education (the Department) has posted a number of Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements that communicate regulatory, policy, and operational information related to the implementation of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs. In addition, Federal Student Aid has updated the [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference](#), the [2007-2008 COD Technical Reference](#), and posted the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#). A school should refer to the [communications posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and to the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references for complete information about the ACG and National SMART Grant programs.

More specifically, the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references cover all aspects of the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs. This includes information on the following key aspects of ACG and National SMART Grant processing:

- Financial Award ID and Financial Award Number (Award Sequence Number)
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”



- Citizenship and Student Level Code
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”
- Message Classes
Volume II, Section 2 “Message Classes”
- Common Record Layout
Volume II, Section 3 “Common Record Layout”
- Reports Generated by COD System
Volume VI, Section 8 “COD Reports”
- Eligibility/Payment Reason and Rigorous High School Program Code for ACG
Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”
- Major/Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code for National SMART Grant
Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”

If your school needs help locating information related to the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Note for EDEExpress Users: Volume III of the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references provides additional guidance for schools that use EDEExpress in combination with another system. If your school needs help locating information related to EDEExpress, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 880/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.